

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the specific reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 1 of the Office Action mailed February 3, 2003. In addition claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimoto et al. (Nishimoto) in view of Applicants' disclosure (page 3) and Hermanson et al. (Hermanson). Lastly, claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimoto in view of Applicants' disclosure (page 3) and Hermanson as applied to claims 1 and 2, and further in view of Nakagaki. For the reasons that follow, Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejecting claims 1-8.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants have replaced in claim 1 the words "feeding circuit" with the words "feeding line." Further, claims 3 and 4 have been amended in order to place them, as well as claims 5 and 6, in condition of allowance, in accordance with the Examiner's instructions for achieving this end.

Claim 8 has been amended by replacing the words "high content in high density pigment" with "high loading of pigment" as in claim 1, and a new claim 9 has been added to add the limitation that said pigment has a high density.

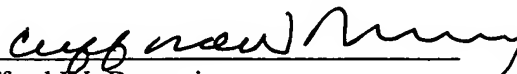
Regarding the statement "high density pigment," Applicants should say that the concept of high density pigment is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art, as mentioned in the second paragraph of page 2 of the specification. Such a high-density pigment could be, for example, organic pigments, and in particular titanium dioxide.

Regarding the prior art rejections, the Examiner stated that Nishimoto fails to teach the mixing means and a means of heating the ink. However, the Examiner failed to consider that Applicants claim a recirculation loop, which is separate from the feeding circuit (or feeding line) and taking ink from the reservoir for returning it in the same reservoir again, while continuously mixing the ink through a recirculation. Such an arrangement is not taught by Nishimoto. It is not taught either by Hermanson, who describes an apparatus for degassing a liquid.

Further, although it is true, as Applicants mention in the specification, that static mixers were known per se and that Nishimoto uses a stirring system in one of his tanks (1301 and 1401, Fig. 9), the Applicants' provision of a mixing arrangement with a stirring system in addition to the recirculation loop, as mentioned above, both as constituents of this mixing arrangement cooperating within the same ink reservoir, was indeed a new feature at the time the Applicants' invention was made.

For these foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing claim amendments, reconsideration of the present application in light thereof and in light of the foregoing remarks, and then allowance of claims 1-8, as amended, and new claim 9 over all the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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